

Transatlantic Focus

A USNATO Public Affairs Newsletter

The United States Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization



U.S. Nuclear Posture Review: "A Road Map for Implementing President Obama's Agenda for Reducing Nuclear Risks to the United States, Our Allies and Partners, and the International Community"

—U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates
The latest element of the Obama Administration's comprehensive approach to advancing the President's Prague agenda for reducing nuclear dangers and pursuing the peace and security of a world free of nuclear weapons, President Obama released the [U.S. Nuclear Posture Review](#) (NPR) April 6. Its release marks the beginning of a pivotal two months for a new nuclear and arms control agenda, including President Obama's signing of a New START Treaty in Prague April 8, his hosting of 47 nations at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington April 12-13 and, in May in New York, the [Non-Proliferation Treaty \(NPT\) Review Conference](#). As NATO assesses options for its new [Strategic Concept](#), the U.S. policy will play a crucial role in determining the means and strategy for nuclear policy in the 21st century.

[Nuclear Posture Review -- full document](#)
[Statement by President Barack Obama on the Release of Nuclear Posture Review](#)
[Vice President Joe Biden op-ed "A Comprehensive Nuclear Arms Strategy"](#)
[Statement by President Obama on the 40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty](#)
[Remarks by Vice President Biden at National Defense University "The Path to Nuclear Security: Implementing the President's Prague Agenda"](#)
[NPR Fact Sheet](#)

Secretary Clinton To Join NATO Foreign Ministers in Talks

NATO's Foreign Ministers will meet in Tallinn, Estonia on April 22-23 for an informal meeting to discuss NATO priorities and missions. Secretary Clinton and her counterparts will hold discussions on priority NATO issues, including [nuclear policy](#) for the Alliance, progress of NATO's new [Strategic Concept](#), and reforms for NATO that will shape it into a more effective organization for the 21st century. Tallinn is the home of the [Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence](#) (CCD COE), which was created to support NATO's cyber defense capability.

[NATO's Cyber Security Policy](#)

[U.S. Efforts Against Cyber Threats](#)



U.S. Delegation Consults with NATO Allies on Nuclear Policy



Flournoy

Tauscher

U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy [Michèle A. Flournoy](#) and U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security [Ellen O. Tauscher](#) met with NATO Allies in Brussels on March 31 as part of the United States' ongoing multilateral consultation on security issues. The U.S. delegation came to NATO Headquarters at President Obama's request and held a discussion with the North Atlantic Council on nuclear and arms control policy. Allies' input was brought back to Washington in advance of the release of the [U.S. Nuclear Posture Review](#).

A New START: U.S. and Russia Sign Nuclear Arms Reductions Treaty in Prague



Together, we are keeping our commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which must be the foundation of global non-proliferation.

--President Barack Obama,
8 April 2010, Prague

In Prague on April 8, the two largest nuclear powers in the world sent a clear signal that they will uphold commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by signing the new [Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty](#) (START). Just one year after his last trip to Prague, where he stated [“America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons”](#), U.S. President Barack Obama joined Russian President Dmitry Medvedev for a historic signing that will cut strategic nuclear warheads by 30 percent. Last week, the United States consulted with NATO Allies (see below) on how the New START and the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review will apply to NATO nuclear policy. Just as NATO seeks to maintain and build relations with Russia through the [NATO-Russia Council](#), the United States also has [reset its relationship](#) with Russia.

[Read the Treaty](#) | [Read the Protocol](#)
[President Obama in Prague – April 8, 2010 Transcript](#)
[President Obama in Prague – April 5, 2009 Transcript](#)
| [Video](#)

Missile Defense: “One Security Roof” from Vancouver to Vladivostok



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen backed a NATO-wide missile defense system in remarks to participants of the German Marshall Fund's Brussels Conference on March 27. Citing NATO's responsibility to protect its population and territorial defense, the Secretary General spoke of ["one security roof" from Vancouver to Vladivostok](#) and outlined the benefits of a NATO-Russia missile shield. Last year, the Obama administration announced a new plan for missile defense in Europe – the Phased, Adaptive Approach. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said at the [NATO Strategic Concept seminar](#) in February, “We consider this a U.S.-funded contribution to NATO missile defense, which is critical to the collective-defense mission to protect our populations, territory, and forces.”

Watch interviews and other event video at [Brussels Forum website](#).

Current U.S. Top Threats Include NATO Priority Issues



Counselor to the U.S. National Intelligence Council Mathew Burrows briefed international press on current global threats as assessed by 16 U.S. intelligence agencies. Dr. Burrows presented the unclassified version of the threat assessments provided to the U.S. Congress, such as violent extremism and cybercrime, as well as nuclear capabilities in Iran. [Read more](#)